

Creel Survey

March 10, 2014

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Anglers should be aware March 15 is the last day to fish for steelhead on Abernathy, Cedar (Clark Co.), Germany, Mill (Cowlitz Co.), Rock (Skamania Co.), Salmon (Clark Co.) creeks and on the Coweeman, Elochoman, Grays, East Fork Lewis, and South Fork Toutle rivers.

Cowlitz River – 35 boat anglers with 1 adult spring Chinook and 12 steelhead kept and 1 steelhead released. 20 bank anglers kept 1 hatchery steelhead.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 119 winter-run steelhead and one cutthroat trout during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator. During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 44 steelhead and one cutthroat into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 12,200 cubic feet per second on Monday, March 10. Water visibility is five feet.

Washougal River – 7 boat anglers with 1 hatchery steelhead kept and 1 wild fish released. 9 bank anglers with 2 wild steelhead released.

Saturday March 15 is the last day to fish for winter steelhead. Mt. Norway Bridge downstream re-opens April 16 under selective gear rules (no bait).

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – SLOW! Despite sampling 100 boats and just over 100 bank anglers we only checked 1 steelhead last week. In fact, we still haven't sampled our first spring Chinook of the season.

Effort is increasing with just over 100 boats and nearly 200 bank anglers found during last Saturday's effort flight count.

Bonneville and John Day pools – No salmonid effort was observed.

The Dalles Pool – Boats are catching some steelhead though overall effort is light.

Bonneville Dam to Washington/Oregon Border - Effective March 16 through May 9, open to fishing for hatchery Chinook and hatchery steelhead. Bank fishing only from Bonneville Dam to Tower Island power lines located about 6 miles below The Dalles Dam. The adult salmonid limit will be 2 fish of which no more than one may be a hatchery Chinook.

Hanford Reach - Fishing has finally improved in the Ringold area steelhead sport fishery. This past week WDFW staff interviewed 26 anglers (14 bank, 12 boat) with 18 steelhead (all hatchery). Bank anglers averaged 16 hours per fish and bank anglers did much better at <6 hours per fish.

Sturgeon

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Only a couple sturgeon boats observed last Saturday but anglers are catching and releasing some legals in the Woodland area.

Bonneville Pool – Now closed for retention. Catch-and-release fishing is permitted on non-retention days. A summer retention period is planned for some time in June.

The Dalles and John Day pools – Bank and boat anglers are catching some legals. Through Feb., an estimated 12 (4%) of The Dalles and 24 (4.8%) of the John Day pool guidelines had been taken.

Walleye and Bass

Bonneville Pool – No effort for either specie.

The Dalles and John Day pools – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged nearly 2 and 1 walleye per rod, respectively. No bass were caught.

Trout

Recent plants of rainbows up to almost ½ pound each (no report on angling success):

- **Lake Sacajawea in Longview** – 3,583 fish March 4;
- **Battle Ground lake** – 1,500 fish March 5;
- **Lacamas Lake in Camas** – 4,000 fish March 4

Smelt

Cowlitz River – Dipping was excellent last Saturday with most ten pound limits in a few dips or less. Fish were reported upstream to Blue Creek. Fish are also reported in the North Fork Lewis River and upstream to Vancouver in the mainstem Columbia.

No more recreational fisheries are currently scheduled.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:														
	Jan	Feb	2-Mar	9-Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:	
Bonneville ¹	163	27								190	17.3%	Mar. 2	1,100	
The Dalles	12									12	4.0%	Feb. 28	300	
John Day	10	14								24	4.8%	Feb. 28	500	
¹ Due to the short season in Bonneville Pool, we will be providing weekly harvest estimates. We will continue to provide harvest estimates for the other pools on a monthly basis. Bonneville Pool was closed to retention January 20-31 and February 18-23.														
The winter fishery in Bonneville Pool closed to retention effective March 10. The fishery may re-open during the summer to catch the remainder of the guideline.														
Harvest estimates are calculated monthly. All in-season estimates are preliminary.														
Current month sampled sturgeon kept:														
	Jan	Feb	2-Mar	9-Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug					
Bonneville	58	14		13						85		Mar. 9		
The Dalles	4			2						6		Mar. 9		
John Day	3	5		3						11		Mar. 9		
Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.														

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

March 3 - 9, 2014

The following table is a summary of numbers of fish observed by samplers.
Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.

Sturgeon														
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2014 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2014 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool	111	144		7	1	14	34	85	188		6	3	71	85
The Dalles Pool	16	1		1		1	12	33	20		1		5	6
John Day Pool	34	8		2	3	6	10	28	3		1		5	11
Total	161	153		10	4	21	56	146	211		8	3	81	102
Salmonids	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2014 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2014 Cum Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool														
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead														
The Dalles Pool	9					1	1	2		1			5	6
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead						1				1			5	6
John Day Pool	1												4	4
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead													4	4
Walleye	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2014 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2014 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool						5	18	35	21	38			47	52
John Day Pool							19	39	9	22			89	89
Bass	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2014 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2014 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool														
John Day Pool														

¹ Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	239%	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.78	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.07	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	219%	220%	269%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.47	0.09	1.69	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.04	none	1.09	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	143%	150%	275%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.27	none	0.79	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.05	none	0.56	none

Preliminary Washington lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary
3/10/2014

10:45 AM

Salmonid

Month/Week	Chinook									Chinook								
	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Bank Anglers</u>	<u>Kept Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Released Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Steelhead Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u># Boats</u>	<u>Boat Anglers</u>	<u>Kept Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Released Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Steelhead Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Other</u>
March 3-9, 2014	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Bonneville	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camas/Washougal	3									23	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	4	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland	5	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kalama	6	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7																	
Longview	8	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cathlamet	9	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
private boats/bank charter	10									3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10																	
Total		117	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	101	206	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sturgeon

	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Bank Anglers</u>	<u>Sublegals Rel.</u>	<u>Legals Rel.</u>	<u>Oversize Rel.</u>	<u>Legals Kept</u>	<u># Boats</u>	<u>Boat Anglers</u>	<u>Sublegals Rel.</u>	<u>Legals Rel.</u>	<u>Oversize Rel.</u>	<u>Legals Kept</u>
Bonneville	1	1	0	0	0	CLOSED						CLOSED
Camas/Washougal	2					CLOSED	1	2	0	0	0	CLOSED
	3					CLOSED	1	2	8	0	0	CLOSED
Vancouver	4					CLOSED						CLOSED
Woodland	5					CLOSED	1	4	30	20	0	CLOSED
Kalama	6					CLOSED	1	3	0	0	0	CLOSED
Cowlitz	7					CLOSED						CLOSED
Longview	8					CLOSED						CLOSED
Cathlamet	9					CLOSED						CLOSED
	10					CLOSED						CLOSED
Deep River + Knappton boats	10					CLOSED						CLOSED
Cathlamet	10					CLOSED						CLOSED
Total		1	0	0	0	CLOSED	4	11	38	20	0	CLOSED

Walleye

	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Bank Anglers</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u># Boats</u>	<u>Boat Anglers</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>
Bonneville	1							
Camas/Washougal	2							
	3							
Vancouver	4							
Woodland	5							
Kalama	6							
Cowlitz	7							
Longview	8							
Cathlamet	9							
Chinook/Elochoman	10							
Total		0	0	0	0	0	0	0